

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL
SURVEY
OF THE CATCHMENTS
OF
LAKES VICTORIA, KYOGA & ALBERT

INAUGURATION, 22ND MARCH, 1968

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ENTEBBE, UGANDA

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SURVEY
OF THE CATCHMENTS OF LAKES VICTORIA, KYOGA AND ALBERT

UNDERTAKEN BY
THE GOVERNMENTS OF KENYA, SUDAN, UGANDA,
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC AND UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

ASSISTED BY
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
AND
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INAUGURATION 22ND MARCH 1968



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H.E. The Hon. Dr. A. Milton Obote,
President of the Republic of Uganda

MESSAGE FROM
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE HON. DR. A. MILTON OBOTE,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE inauguration of the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert Project undertaken by the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, the United Arab Republic and Uganda, I convey my best wishes for the successful implementation and completion of this worthy Project.

Water is a basic requirement, not only to the life of man, but also for his crops and his herds of animals. It is a cheap source of power for both industrial and domestic use and water transport is the cheapest means of transportation. Water is one of the most essential requisites for the existence of man on this earth.

Vast tracts of Africa are lifeless deserts and semi arid zones where life is very precarious and therefore the economic and social development is exceedingly difficult. On the other hand too much water is equally disastrous to man and development. Excessive rain annually causes flooding, disrupts communication and washes away fertile soil; causes famine and a host of other problems in various parts of the world. The need, therefore, of controlling, conserving and harnessing, available water resources is obvious and urgent. Any effort to achieve this aim must be based on reliable scientific data. It is essential to study all the numerous factors affecting the balance of our water resources from season to season and from year to year. It is only after such data has been collected, analysed and interpreted that the best allocation of this water between its numerous and often competing uses can be made, and this is essential to achieve the optimum economic and social development of any country. It is to gather this basic information and data that the scheme being officially inaugurated today was conceived.

It gives me special pleasure, therefore, to see that five sister countries have joined together, and with the help of the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Meteorological Organisation decided to collect this essential data, which is vital to the future development of our countries. Because of its scientific and economic necessity, and as an excellent example of African unity and brotherhood in action, I wish this Project every success.



H.E. the Hon. Jomo Kenyatta, B.A., M.P.,
President of the Republic of Kenya

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY
THE HON. JOMO KENYATTA, B.A., M.P.,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

I AM PLEASED TO SEND MY GREETINGS and good wishes to you on the occasion of the opening of the Project Headquarters of the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert at Entebbe.

Water is one of the most important basic resources. It is indispensable not only to human life but also for agricultural and industrial development. Water must be treated differently from other natural resources, such as minerals, which can be preserved in their natural form and saved until required, so that if only a little is used in our generation, more will be available in the next. The flowing water of a river cannot be preserved in this way. Any water unused today is lost to useful purpose forever. Each year by which development is delayed diminishes the potential value of life-giving water to mankind. Also, uncontrolled flowing water is a major cause of human suffering and misery. Regulated and put to use, the same water is the very basis of life and civilization.

Any survey of water resources, with its inherent direct effect on production of food and fibre for human sustenance, is, therefore, of fundamental importance. The Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert, has, however, a special significance. This 5-year project is being undertaken jointly by the Governments of Uganda, Tanzania, the Sudan, The United Arab Republic and Kenya with the assistance of the United Nations Special Fund and the World Meteorological Organization acting as the Executing Agency. The joint enterprise by the participants has set an example in international co-operation and has demonstrated the true spirit of Harambee in the cause of unity for the common welfare of our peoples. I am confident that the benefits to be derived from this Project will be manifold and will lead the participants to yet greater co-operation in the conservation, utilization and development of the head-waters of the Nile—our common heritage.

The Project Headquarters, which is being opened today, will go down in history as a monument to international co-operation for the human welfare.

HARAMBEE.

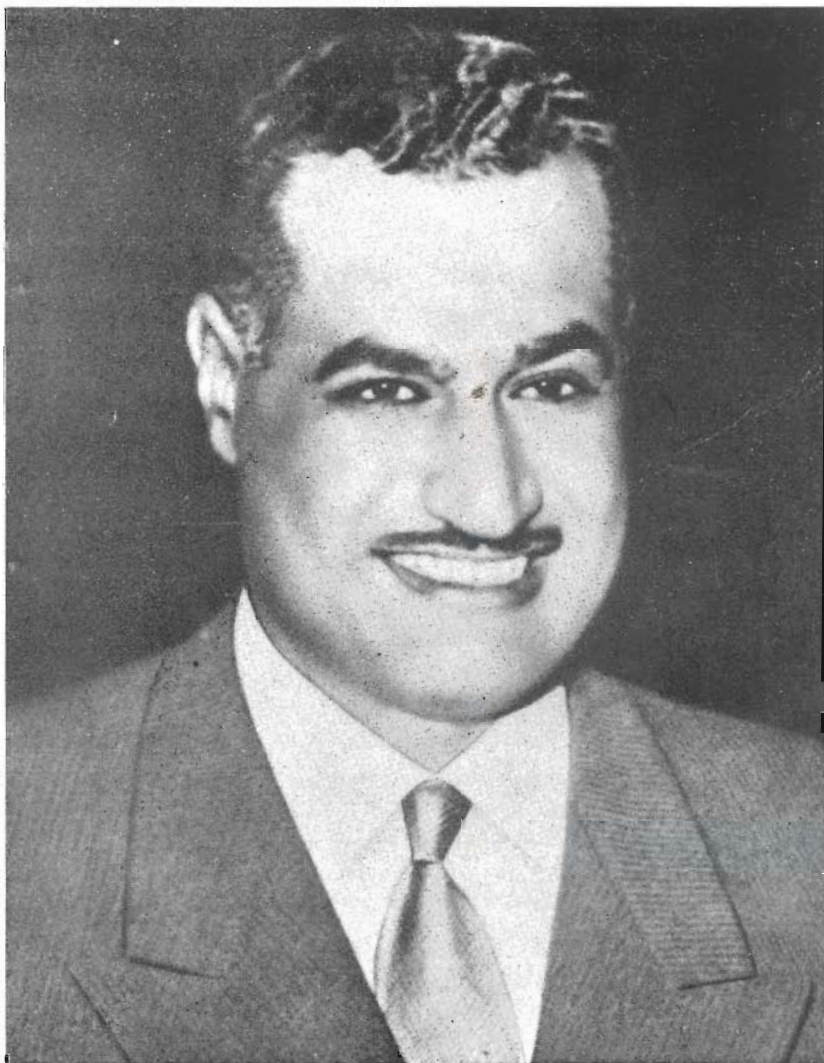


H.E. The Hon. Ismail Al-Azhari
President of the Republic of Sudan

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ISMAIL EL AZHARI,
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE to send this short message as a symbolic participation in the Inauguration of the project of the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert. The World of to-day is the world of science and technology and technological achievement has become the real measure of progress and development. The African Unity which we sincerely believe in as an effective means for overcoming the difficulties of developing African Countries would never materialise if it were just based on emotional feelings. African solidarity will be achieved by the close economic and technical co-operation of Africans. The project we are celebrating to-day is a true manifestation of African Unity; it is a commendable effort of African Technical co-operation the first of its kind in its field. The aim is to plan water conservation and to provide the groundwork of intergovernmental co-operation in the storage, regulation and use of the beloved Nile for the benefit of our peoples. It is significant that this project witnesses the fruitful co-operation of five sovereign African countries, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, United Arab Republic and United Republic of Tanzania assisted by the United Nations. It is therefore a lively example of both self help and a welcomed international aid for the implementation of a peaceful programme in the interest of peacelovers craving for decent standards of living. The Republic of the Sudan is very happy to participate in the successful implementation of the project of the Hydrometeorological Survey of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert. Our Country will always be prepared to join hands with sister countries in similar useful projects. We seize this opportunity to greet the sister countries that have participated in this great project and the United Nations assistance is highly appreciated. We pay tribute to all the staff who will spare no effort in the execution of this vital project.

May God bless all of us.



H.E. The Hon. Gamal Abdel Nasser,
President of the United Arab Republic

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MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY
GAMAL ABDEL NASSER,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE, on this historic occasion, to convey to the people and Governments of East Africa my own best wishes and those of the people of the United Arab Republic.

I also send my greetings to all those who have participated in this project for the common welfare of all of us.

The inauguration of the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Equatorial Lakes Basin will certainly lead to a better understanding and thorough study of the catchment areas of these Lakes.

This project aims at collecting the most valuable technical information needed by the Governments concerned. It will also pave the way to a more perfect understanding and sound co-operation in drawing up of storage and regulation works as well as other projects for the complete conservation of the Nile supply.

There is no doubt as to the great benefit gained from the meeting of our Five African Countries, who are tied together by the friendly and technical links bestowed upon them by the immortal and benevolent Nile. Such technical co-operation goes to prove that the sincere friendship which lies deep down in our hearts, the same understanding which dominates our minds and our joint efforts in the field of African unity are essentialities which will lead in the end to our common benefit, our progress, prosperity and power.

I sincerely welcome this opportunity to express my high esteem to all those who took an active role in implementation of this project which we see today advancing in sure strides towards its realisation.



H.E. The Hon. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere,
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT NYERERE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

THE RIVER NILE has played an important part in the cultural history of the world, and in the development of great civilisations. But to those of us who live in the areas from which, and through which, its waters flow, this river means life or death. While the water runs unregulated and uncontrolled we are at the mercy of floods and of slack periods. And at the same time we see life-giving water flowing quickly through parched areas and on to the sea.

This is not a matter which affects only one country or two; it is a matter in which the whole of North Eastern Africa is concerned. For if all the countries affected by the Nile waters co-operate to control this great force, and to use it for the benefit of our peoples, then we can make great advances. But separately we are all helpless, suffering floods or droughts and unable to use the power and the wealth which these waters could represent in terms of hydro-electricity and irrigation.

The river Nile is, in fact, a classic example of Africa's urgent economic need for unity. If each state involved in the catchment areas of the river thinks of these waters in isolation, then the river will flow uncontrolled as it has done for thousands of years. If any one state tries to take unilateral action, then other states, and other peoples, could suffer, and this part of Africa may—taken as a whole—be worse off than before. But if all of us work together, and co-operate together, then we can utilise this great natural resource for mutual benefit; under these conditions the peoples of every state can live better lives, and Africa will progress.

This is particularly true of those countries involved in the Upper Nile waters, and Tanzania is therefore extremely happy to welcome the inauguration of the Hydrometeorological Survey of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert. Five countries are co-operating in this survey, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation. The work will take a long time, and will involve a great deal of hard physical labour for all the people involved. But it is an essential preliminary to our future action, and therefore a very important part of our future development. For it is only when we understand a great deal more about these Lakes that we can begin to consider how Africa can derive the maximum benefit from the Nile waters.

This survey will be concerned with collecting information—with finding out the facts about this particular part of the Nile Catchment area. For this purpose the states most directly concerned—Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, United Arab Republic, and the United Republic of Tanzania—have joined together. But it is my sincere hope that the other riparian nations—Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, and Rwanda—will, at the appropriate time—join with us in the future task of controlling and regulating the flow of the Upper Nile.

That, however, is in the future. For now I would like to express the very good wishes felt by Tanzania for all those who will work on this project. The experts from other parts of the world, and the counterpart staff from the five African countries involved, are beginning the long and arduous task of implementing practical unity in Africa. We rely upon their dedication, and we assure them of our full support in all their efforts for our common future.



Hon. Lt. Col. B. R. Mackenzie, D.S.O., D.F.C. M.P.,
Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Kenya

MESSAGE FROM
THE HON. LT. COL. B. R. McKENZIE, D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P.,
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, REPUBLIC OF KENYA

I AM PLEASED TO SEND MY WARM GREETINGS and good wishes to you on the occasion of the inauguration of the Project on the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert.

Hydrometeorological data are the basic ingredients for the planning, design and operation of all water projects which, in turn, are of primary importance for the national economy and prosperity because of their direct bearing on agricultural and industrial development. This Project is therefore, of fundamental importance as it is designed to provide the basic data for the formulation of development proposals.

There is another aspect which enhances the value of the Project and this is its international significance. The Nile cuts across national boundaries and the hydrometeorological appraisal of this river basin for establishing mutually accepted data by the five riparian countries is, in itself, an exercise in international co-operation for the common prosperity of our peoples. I am sure this co-operation will lead to proposals for an integrated development of water resources of the region.

I wish the Project every success.



Hon. Mr. Both Due,
Minister of Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Power, Sudan

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. MR. BOTH DUE,
MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC
POWER, SUDAN

IT IS MOST PLEASING TO ME to see five African countries co-operating together to carry out a most important survey. The Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert aims at collecting the basic data vital to the study of the water balance of the Upper Nile with the object of planning water conservation and development projects, storage and regulation of the Lakes for the best use of the Nile to the benefit of all our countries.

It is realized that water has always been vital for human existence and has become in our modern society the most important raw material, coupled with steadily increasing demands all over the world. The problems of droughts and damaging floods are challenging problems raising the concern of most of the countries of the world. But through our determination and co-operation in this vital field all our problems can be resolved to the benefit of our African countries. Thanks to the United Nations Development Programme whose participation in the field of assistance has increased to cope with the increasing water problems I express here our sincere appreciations of the generous participation of the United Nations Special Fund in this important survey. I also take this opportunity to express my satisfaction that World Meteorological Organization is now acting as Executing Agency for this Project.

We should realize that technical knowledge is a vital tool to the developing countries and we should spare no effort in the training of the counterpart personnel to promote their technical knowledge, as I feel that the follow-up of the survey is as vital as the survey itself.

The Government of Sudan realizes the benefit that can be gained by all our countries through co-operation. At the same time we feel that our joint effort in this Project is a clear manifestation of African Unity and the Sudan Government will spare no effort in making the Project a success.



Hon. Sayed A. K. El Shennawi
Minister of Irrigation, United Arab Republic.

MESSAGE FROM HON. SAYED A. K. EL SHENNAWI, MINISTER OF IRRIGATION, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

I DEEM IT A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE to be present on this historic occasion, the inauguration of the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of the Equatorial Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert. This Survey aims at collecting the basic data needed for the study of the water balance of the lakes and planning water conservation and development projects, besides helping to furnish the necessary data for storage in the lakes and control of the River.

We, in U.A.R., realize how important the subject of the Nile waters is, as it takes the greater share in our development programmes. We hope that this project will be the key to the planning of the Nile development projects for the use of the Nile countries, to fulfil their future expansion not only in agriculture but also in hydro-electric power.

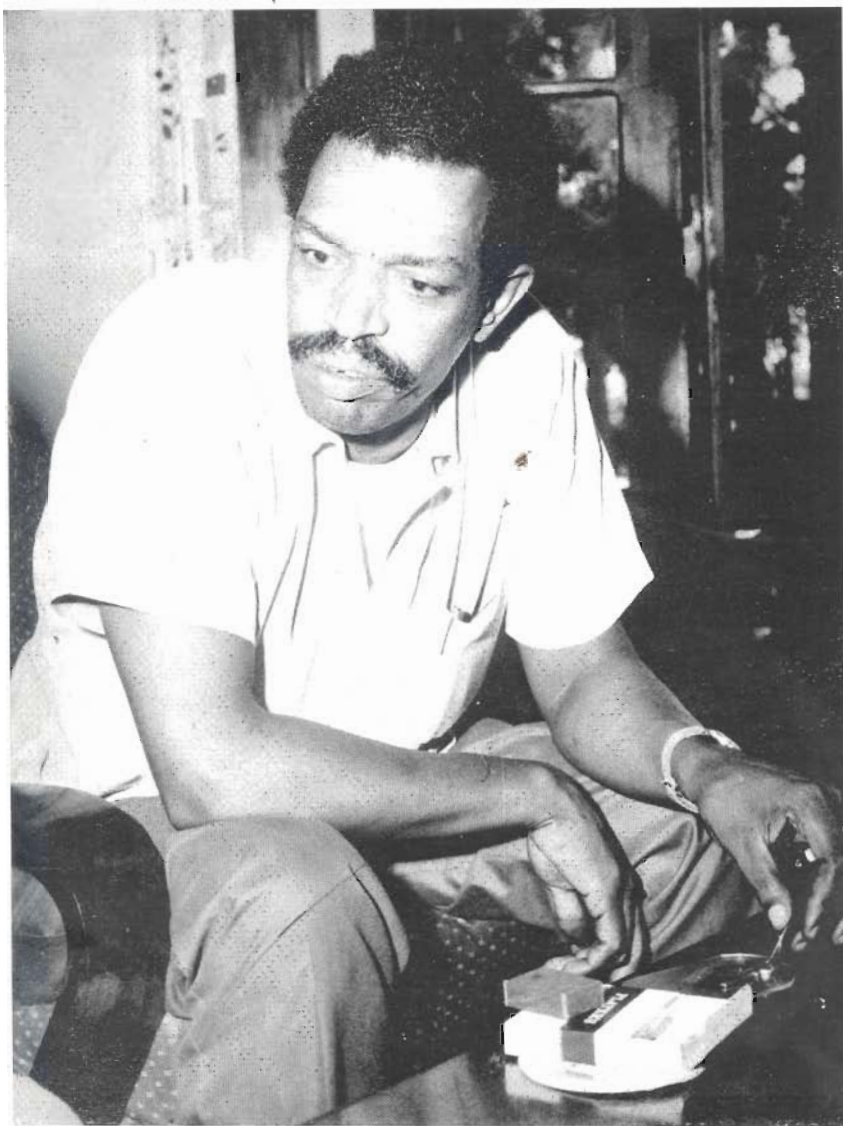
I appreciate the spirit of co-operation which marked all meetings between the technical authorities in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania with the Members of the P.J.T.C. dealing with the Nile field. This joint project is one of the best results gained by such co-operation meetings.

I am sure that you all agree with me that this project gathering technicians from the five participating countries is a practical example of the brotherly relations that tie together the countries of the Nile.

As we are embarking on the carrying out of these hydrometeorological studies, we are also very much grateful for the assistance of the United Nations Special Fund and the World Meteorological Organization.

At last, I should like to express personally and on behalf of the U.A.R. Government our high appreciation for the kind invitation of the Uganda Government. I wish to congratulate the management of the project for the successful efforts they have exerted both in planning the survey and setting up the ceremony of this inauguration.

I hope that we may all meet again at the end of these five years period of survey. And until then, I wish every success to all who are involved in the work.



Hon. Mr. Abdur Rahman Mohammed Babu,
Minister of Lands, Settlement and Water Development,
Government of Tanzania

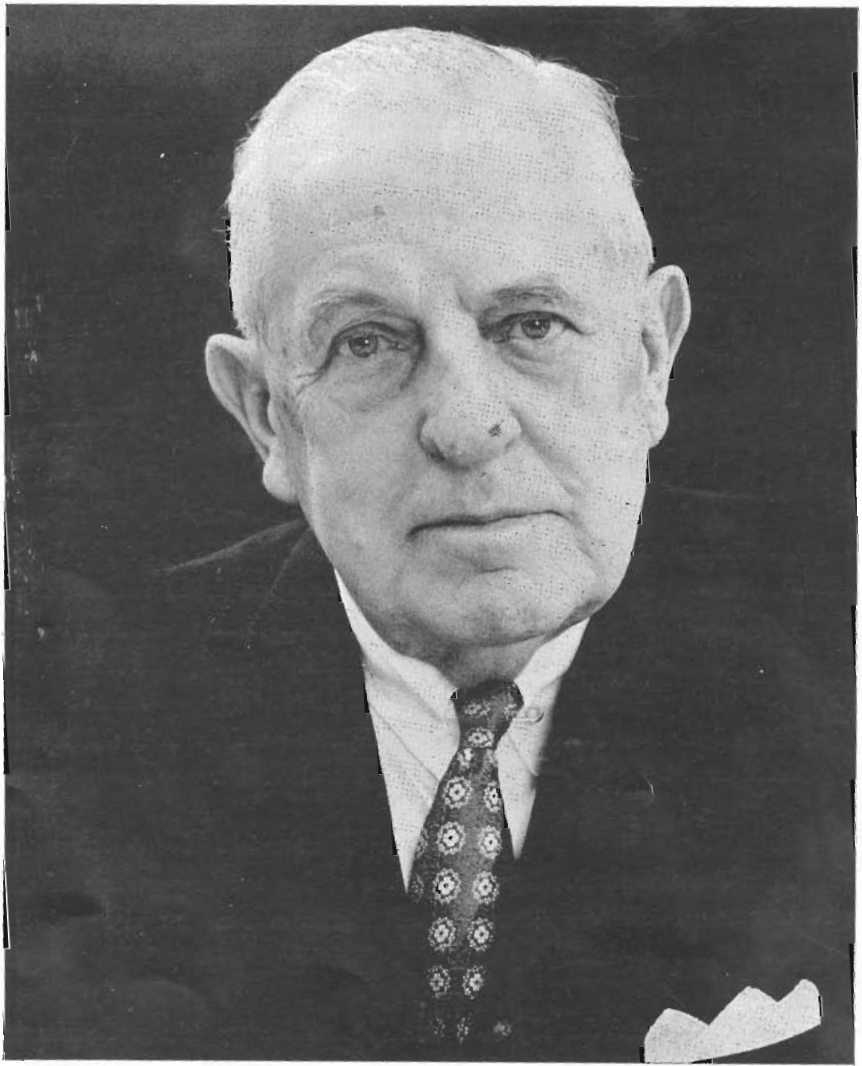
EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH BY THE HON. MR. S. A. MASWANYA,
FORMER MINISTER OF LANDS, SETTLEMENT AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTLY MINISTER FOR HOME
AFFAIRS IN TANZANIA, ON 27th FEBRUARY, 1967.

TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA are situated in the tropics where evaporation is high and rainfall ill-distributed in time. Thus to ensure successful farming rainfall has to be supplemented by irrigation. On the other hand, there are areas suitable for farming but they are flooded from season to season. Thus water can be useful or destructive at times. The recent unprecedented rise in lake levels during the period 1961-1964 brings to mind the destructive nature of water. Considerable sums of money have been spent in repairing works that were put out of use by the flood waters of the lakes. Port facilities on the lakes were badly impaired.

As far back as 1950 the Governments of Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda realized the importance of controlling and use of the Lake Victoria waters. However, there was a lack of scientific data to enable such work to be done. Hence these Governments tried to initiate the survey for evaluating the water balance of Lake Victoria and its catchments. In 1960 a tentative agreement being reached by the three Governments, an approach to UNEPTA for possible assistance was made. UNEPTA sent a World Meteorological Organization and Food and Agricultural Organization team to undertake the preliminary survey of the lake and its catchment in 1962. The team produced a report which was submitted to the Governments in 1963. This confirmed the desirability of the hydrometeorological survey of the lake and its catchment. On reviewing the matter again the three Governments realising the importance of the River Nile both to East African countries and the downstream countries, mainly Sudan and U.A.R., decided that in the spirit of African Unity and friendly relations that exist between the East African countries, Sudan and U.A.R., it was appropriate to invite the Governments of the Republic of Sudan and United Arab Republic to participate in this scientific exercise. The area of survey was extended to cover the lakes Kyoga and Albert.

The two downstream Governments accepted the invitation and the five Governments put a joint request to the U.N.S.F. for assistance. The U.N.S.F. realising the importance of such an inter-regional project in furthering friendly relations agreed to offer assistance and appointed the World Meteorological Organization as executing agency.

The Technical Committee for the Hydrometeorological Survey of the Catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert will be responsible for the staff seconded from the five participating countries. For the next five years these officers will be working as a team. I know full well that the work will be hard and difficult for most of these officers will spend considerable time in remote places in the field, in swamps and on small lonely islands in the execution of their duties. It will be gratifying for those officers to remember that they are among the selected few to participate in a project on which future international decision will have to be based.



Mr. Paul G. Hoffman,
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, New York.

MESSAGE FROM MR. PAUL G. HOFFMAN, ADMINISTRATOR, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME is proud to participate with the Governments of Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, the United Arab Republic and Tanzania—and with the World Meteorological Organization—in this project which is of such great importance for so many significant reasons. To harness the waters of the Nile from source to delta is a great and ancient dream of the peoples of this area. Now, it is also a practical possibility toward whose attainment the gathering of scientific data by this project will be a major forward step.

Africa's water resources, of course, are among the most basic of all those available for speeding her development. Their productive use will mean more food, more power, more trade, better transport, greater job opportunities, improved health conditions—in short, the opening of hopeful new horizons for millions and millions of people.

But *this* project also represents something more. The work that has gone into conceiving it, the work that will be required to carry it out successfully, and the work necessary to ensure that its full potential benefits are eventually realized—all these are works of international cooperation. In a sense, it is particularly fitting that such work goes forward here. For to a greater degree perhaps than anywhere else in the world, Africa is becoming a testing-ground for bold new concepts of co-operation between governments and peoples. And what will be learned and accomplished on this Continent can serve as a beacon-light for the progress of all mankind toward a new and better ordering of its affairs.

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Mr. David Arthur Davies,
Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

MESSAGE FROM MR. DAVID ARTHUR DAVIES,
SECRETARY-GENERAL, WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

THERE CAN BE FEW WHO LIVE IN AFRICA or who otherwise have the interests of the African peoples at heart, who will fail to realize how precious are the natural water resources of this great Continent.

But to realize this is one thing and to take the necessary steps to ensure the most effective use of these resources for the common good, is another.

It is for this reason that the five African States participating in this project are to be congratulated and to be thanked for their foresight and wisdom in approving this project.

The action now being taken will not only be of immediate direct benefit to the economic development of the large part of the African Continent which the territories of these five States comprise, but will also bring lasting benefits to generations yet to come.

The World Meteorological Organization is honoured to be the Executing Agency for this project and will spare no effort to bring it to a completely successful conclusion.



Mr. R. K. A. Gardiner,
*The Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission
for Africa, Addis Ababa.*

MESSAGE FROM MR. R. K. A. GARDINER,
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA, ADDIS ABBABA

DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS a number of African governments have taken important steps towards the rational and co-ordinated development of the resources of certain large river basins shared by several countries. The year 1963 witnessed the conclusion of a convention in respect of the development of the Senegal river and the establishment of the Inter State Committee for this basin. In the same year an act regarding navigation and economic co-operation between the states of the Niger basin was concluded. In 1964 a subsequent agreement between the riparian states of the Niger river established the Niger River Basin Commission. Also in 1964, the riparian countries of Lake Chad concluded a convention by which the Chad Basin Commission was set up. Each of the three commissions has since actively engaged upon its task.

Now we witness the inauguration of an important survey of the headwaters of the second largest river basin in Africa. Of the five countries which actively participate in this study, two are located in the lower part of the basin and outside the area to be covered by the survey. Yet, a better understanding of the complicated meteorological and hydrological phenomena in headwater area is also in their interest. The present project is therefore an encouraging example of a rational approach by several governments towards a common problem.

The task before the Technical Committee, set up by the five governments to co-ordinate and guide the activities of the survey will not be easy. Difficult scientific problems will have to be solved and much detailed co-ordination should take place in order to achieve the project aims. I am, however, confident of success.

This project is yet another sign that practical co-operation between African governments is increasing steadily. I congratulate sincerely the Governments of Kenya, the Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Arab Republic on the undertaking of this important project which is a landmark on the voyage to a comprehensive plan of development of the resources of the great river Nile.

The African continent possesses a large number of international rivers and I believe that the present project will inspire many other governments to co-operate in the development of the river basins they share with others.



H.E. The Hon. Mr. John K. Babiha,
The Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JOHN BABIHA, THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM VERY HAPPY to have been afforded this opportunity to participate in this inaugural function to mark the commencement of the Hydrometeorological survey of the catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert. The joint undertaking of the Project by five African countries with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme is a step of considerable significance from many points of view.

First, from the scientific and technological point of view, the sheer size of the scheme is unique in the world. Very few similar schemes have covered such a large area. I also believe that very few schemes have such a variety of meteorological, hydrological and topographical features. The data that should emerge at the end of the scheme period should therefore be of the greatest scientific interest, not only to the five participating countries, but also to the scientific world at large.

Looking at the Project from the historical point of view, rivers in the course of history have traditionally played the role of dividing factors—dividing one state from another. Numerous disputes over these borders and over the use of the waters of the rivers have arisen in history and have on many occasions led to war between states. It is, therefore, significant that in this Project Old Mother Nile is a unifying factor bringing together five nations in a peaceful scientific study. It is also hoped that, may be by the end of the scheme period, not only five, but also other sister nations may have joined this Project.

Speaking as an African, the Project is significant in terms of African Unity. It is the spirit exhibited in this scheme that is the very core of the Organisation of African Unity; that need to stand and work together in brotherly love in the service of our peoples.

If our hard won political independence is to lead to economic independence and escape the menaces of neo-colonial forces, then a strong indigenous scientific and technological base, geared to the full exploitation of the available natural resources in our continent must be established. This is the purpose of the scheme we are here to inaugurate today.

Africa is potentially very rich in natural resources. We have the resources in abundance and it is our duty to evaluate and take stock of these resources so that we can scientifically plan to develop them, not only for the good of the peoples of Africa, but for the good of the whole world.

Of all the natural resources, water is perhaps the most basic and fundamental resource necessary for the very existence of man, and without which no development can be achieved. It is, therefore, very appropriate that this inter-African technological co-operation so evident in this Project, has come in the essential field of water resources. Several countries, not only in Africa, but all over the world will be watching with keen interest the progress of this Project. I am convinced that the data that will be made available by this Project will provide a scientific base on which to plan the economic and social development of our countries and will contribute greatly to the ultimate raising of the living standards of our peoples. It is in this hope and confidence that I now proceed formally to inaugurate the Project.

I NOW DECLARE THIS PROJECT WELL AND TRULY INAUGURATED



The Technical Committee — Nairobi Session, November, 1967.

THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MR. O. S. CEGE,

Director, Water Development Department, Kenya.

MR. Y. A. MAGEED,

Executive Member, P.J.T.C., Sudan.

MR. DENIS G. KABEGA,

Commissioner, Water Development Department, Uganda.

MR. SAMI M. KAMAL,

Executive Member, P.J.T.C., U.A.R.

MR. F. K. LWEGARULILA,

Director, Water Development and Irrigation Division, Tanzania

MR. C. M. TAYLOR,

Director, E.A.M.D., Co-opted Member.



Hon. Mr. M. L. Choudry,
Minister of Mineral and Water Resources, Uganda

SPEECH BY HON. MR. M. L. CHOUDRY, MINISTER OF MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES, UGANDA

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AT THE OUTSET, it is my pleasant duty to extend, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, and on my own behalf, a very cordial welcome to all our distinguished guests, particularly to those who have come from outside Uganda to participate in this significant function and wish them a happy stay in Uganda.

As one who signed the Plan of Operation for this Project on behalf of the Government of Uganda, it gives me great pleasure to participate in this inaugural function along with the representatives of the other participating Governments. The present project was initially conceived for the catchment area of only one lake i.e. Lake Victoria.

The need for an evaluation of the water balance of Lake Victoria and its catchment has long been realised. Attempts to initiate such a survey were first undertaken by officials of the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in the late 1950's

The East African Nile Waters Co-ordinating Committee had endorsed the need for such a survey by 1960. Attempts were made to find the necessary finance for carrying out the survey from our own internal resources. It soon became apparent that the hydrometeorological survey of such a vast and varied area could not be entirely undertaken or financed by the Governments. The possibility of obtaining assistance from the United Nations was then considered.

Following a request by the East African Governments for a preliminary survey of Lake Victoria and its catchment area under the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in 1961, a team of three consultants provided by the World Meteorological Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization undertook a preliminary survey of the Lake and its catchment in January/April 1962. The WMO/FAO Mission submitted its report to the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika in 1963. However doubts arose as to whether the most desirable definitions of area and scope had been determined and whether the best project in relation to cost had been formulated.

Discussions among the East African Countries led us to conclude that consideration should be given to extending the project area to include Lakes Kyoga and Albert and also to inviting the United Arab Republic and the Republic of Sudan to participate in such an expanded project. The United Nations Special Fund was requested to consider this possibility.

The East African Governments then extended invitations to the Governments of the Republic of Sudan and the United Arab Republic to join in the Project. They quickly responded favourably and in August, 1965 the Special Fund sent a team of six experts to review all aspects of the Project with the five Governments and to assist them in their formulation of this revised project request.

In order to assume overall responsibility for the participation of the five Governments in the project and to act as the co-ordinating agency with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, a Technical Committee was constituted. Towards the end of 1966 the World Meteorological Organization which was designated as the Executing Agency for the Project, submitted a draft Plan of Operation which was considered by the five Governments and this was ultimately signed by the seven parties in May 1967. I am happy to note that the Project has been declared operational by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Pro-

gramme with effect from August 1967. Several international personnel have been deputed by the WMO to work in different parts of the project towards the end of 1967 and the necessary equipment also started arriving.

This function is intended to serve as formal inauguration.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the participating countries for unanimously choosing Entebbe as the headquarters for the Project. It is a pleasure to see technical personnel from the five participating Governments working in close co-operation not only amongst themselves but also with the personnel deputed by the World Meteorological Organization drawn from different parts of the world and with such a strong sense of dedication to duty.

I have every hope that this international team of technologists working in different parts of the project area will find conditions of life and work enjoyable and that the results of their work will be of immense benefit to our countries.

The objectives of the present project are the collection and analysis of hydrometeorological data of the catchments of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert in order to study the water balance of the Upper Nile. We hope that the data collected and the study will help us in the planning of water conservation and development and to provide the groundwork for inter-governmental co-operation in the storage, regulation and use of the Nile. I wish to take this opportunity to express the additional hope that the results of the studies that will be undertaken as part of this project will lead to the eventual formulation of specific agreed schemes for the development of the immense water resources of the participating countries for productive purposes like irrigation, hydro-electric power, navigation, flood control, etc. so that the long cherished dream of all of us for raising the living standards of our people will be translated into a reality in the not too distant future.

MESSAGE FROM
MR. ROLAND A. KAMPMEIER, CONSULTING ENGINEER,
TENNESSEE, U.S.A.

It is a pleasure to learn that work is under way on various aspects of the Hydrometeorological Survey of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga and Albert, and that there is to be a formal inauguration of the project soon.

The importance of this Survey is very great. In this age of energy, and of looming food and water shortages, the benefits of this project are likely to prove even greater than any of us have visualized.

It is more essential than ever before to measure our water resources, and to learn all we can about them—especially how and why they vary, and how they can best be controlled and used. This is particularly true of the world's great river systems—but of none more surely than the Nile.

The Nile is of outstanding significance in many ways. It is the world's second longest river. It is one of the half-dozen most important river basins in size of drainage area. It and its tributaries flow through an unusually large number of nations, and are vital to the economies of several of them. Lake Victoria is the second largest freshwater lake in the world. The Nile is extraordinary in the large proportion of its flow that is used to sustain human life, and in the very large proportion of the rainfall that evaporates long before it can be used.

For these and numerous other reasons, the Nile, and in particular the huge equatorial basin of the White Nile, offers tremendous challenges and opportunities to the hydrometeorologist. This Survey, which we are all so happy to see under way, is a major step in responding to these challenges and opportunities.

The Nile offers equally challenging opportunities to the nations to work together in finding how to maximize the benefits which this great river system can provide for them all. The Survey is also a major step in responding to this great challenge. These five great nations, working closely together, with a helping hand from the United Nations, are offering the world a stimulating example.

The Survey begins with the heartfelt best wishes of many persons in many countries. Especially confident of its value and success are those of us who are fortunate in knowing personally the high competence and steadfast goodwill of the project's Technical Committee and of its Manager and Co-Manager.